

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Galatians 3:15-18--November 5th, 2023

Sermon Recap:

Abraham's Promise

Paul points to the whole story of the Bible in support his argument that God's people are justified by faith alone. He begins with the promise made to Abraham.

I. The Nature of the Promise

a. Gracious

- **V.18-** The word "gave" is a verb that carries the idea of a grace gift.
- The covenant with Abraham, the promises that God made to Abraham were promises of grace.

b. Unchanging

- **V.15-** Paul is drawing on the common practice of man; that two people will enter into an agreement, a contract, and it is unchanging. How much more so would it be in a covenant made by God?
- The covenant is not rooted in Abraham's obedience but in who God is.

II. The Seed of the Promise

- "seed"- both a singular noun and a collective noun. It can mean one or more than one.
- Paul points out in verse 16 that God spoke this promises to Abraham and to his singular seed, to one person.
- Scriptural References:
 - Genesis 3:15
 - Genesis 12:7
 - Genesis 17:7
 - Genesis 17:9
 - Genesis 21:2
 - 2 Sam. 7:12-14
 - Psalm 89:3-4
- Who is the seed of Adam, Abraham, Isaac, and David?
 - Matthew 1:1- Jesus Christ
- The inheritance of Abraham was ultimately promised to Jesus Christ, the promised Seed.
 - Abraham believed (faith) this promise and it was counted to him as righteousness (justified).
- This promise was unilateral. It was not dependence on any conditions met by Abraham.
 - Notice the "I" statements in Gen. 12:2-3.
 - Gen. 15:17-18- God walked through the sacrifice himself, taking the curse upon himself
 - Only those who are united in faith to the Seed, to Christ, share in the blessings of Abraham.

Paul's words to the Galatians should give us a firm, unshakable assurance of salvation. Our salvation is rooted in the gracious, unchanging promise of God.

Discussion Questions:

- What human example does Paul use in verse 15? How does that help understand God's covenant with his people?
- In Galatians 3:17-18, what is the good news in this passage? Will God go back on His promise? Why or why not?
- What is significant about the verb "gave" in verse 18?
- Through whom were the promises to Abraham fulfilled? (3:16) what is the distinction between "seed" and "seeds?"
- To whom does the inheritance of the children of Abraham belong?
- If the God's covenant with Abraham was established before the law, what does the deliverance of the law to Moses mean for the law? Does it alter it?
- According to this passage and the comparison between the promise and law of God, how are Jews and Gentiles saved?

Application:

- How does the promised of the Seed provide assurance of faith today?
- If our salvation is rooted in the covenant made by God, how should that influence the way we live?
- In what situation are you most tempted to doubt God's faithfulness and your salvation? How does v.15-18 help you combat those temptations?

